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CIA-RDP81-00280R001300050022-0

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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT

SUBJECT Bezmer Airfield

DATE DISTR. 29 October 1956

NO. PAGES 3

REQUIREMENT

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DATE OF INFO.

PLACE & DATE ACQ.

REFERENCES

1. Bezmer Airfield is located southwest of Yambol on the south side of the Yambol-Stara Zagora Railroad line. Its length is about 3,000 meters alongside the railroad line and its width is about 2,000 meters. The airfield is surrounded by a wire fence about 2.5 meters high fixed on either wooden or concrete posts. The runway is 2,200 meters long and 100-120 meters wide; it is made of concrete square slabs connected by asphalt. The slabs are of rich green color and do not differ from the surrounding grass surface to a distant observer. There are electric lights on both sides of the runway for night flying. The lights are protected by strong glass tops.
2. There are about 80 jet aircraft at the airfield. About two-thirds of the aircraft are twin-engine bombers, probably BUTCHERS, but they could be TU-14, type-35 planes, judging by their appearance on a photograph. The rest of the jet aircraft are FALCONS. The aircraft were marked by a Soviet star and not by the Bulgarian symbols. At most, 12 aircraft were in the air at one time. In most of the cases observed, three aircraft started simultaneously, but took off in a line. Sometimes only two aircraft took off, but never was a single aircraft observed taking off.
3. About 300 Bulgarian Air Force officers, mostly lieutenants who are graduates of the Horni Metropol (sic) Air Force school, are at the airfield. Their uniform is identical with the Soviet Air Force uniform, but they can be differentiated from the Soviets because of their language. There are also some Soviet officers, including a Soviet military adviser with the rank of colonel, serving with the Bulgarian unit. Apart from the Air Force personnel, there are about 600-700 Bulgarian Air Force ground personnel.

Legend for sketch #2

1. Runway: concrete; 2,200 meters long; 100-120 meters wide;

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR EVAL	X	FBI		AEC					
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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; field distribution by "#".)

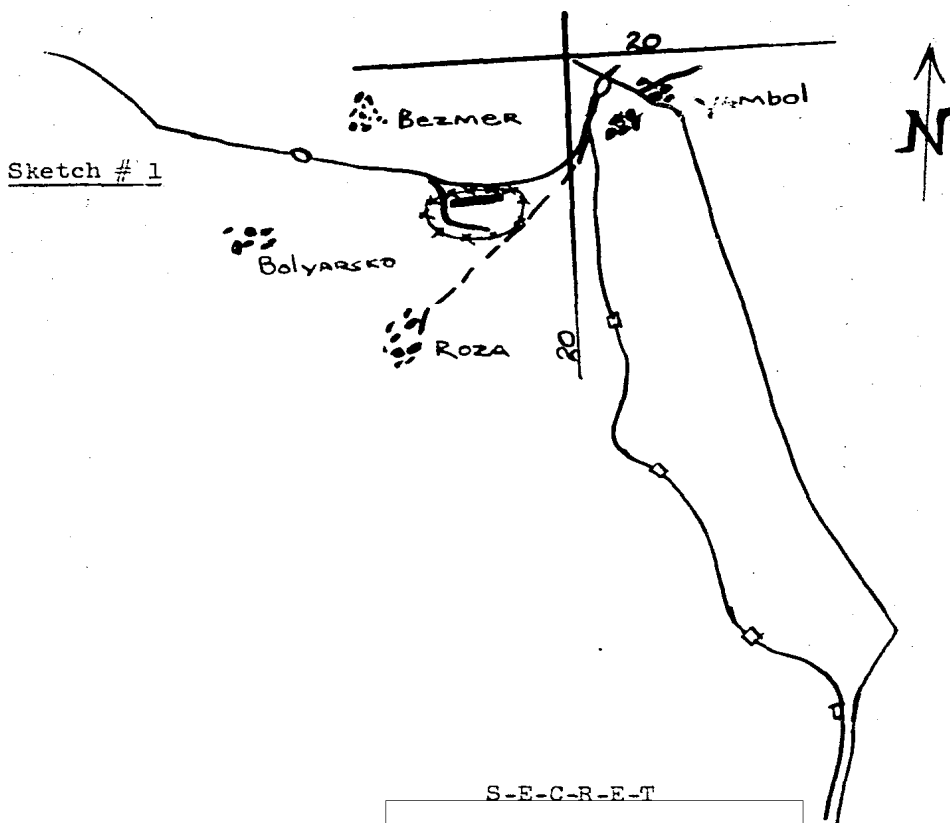
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2. Underground hangars. They could not be observed from the outside, but the four taxi strips lead into them and slope underground at their southern ends. The surface above the hangars is allegedly of reinforced concrete construction. This is the only airfield in Bulgaria with underground hangars;
3. Four taxi strips; about 150 meters apart; 300-350 meters long; 50-60 meters wide. The taxi strips start sinking into the ground at the distance of about 200 meters from the runway;
4. Airfield Headquarters and Air Force billets. The Headquarters building is three-storied; U-shaped; 80-100 meters long; 20 meters wide. The ground floor is occupied by offices and the two upper floors are used as quarters. Three 3-story buildings south of the Headquarters building are used as Air Force officers' quarters. Each of them is 50 x 60 x 20 meters large;
5. Three warehouses containing equipment. The western one is the largest, about 90 x 20 meters. They have loading platforms on the side of the adjoining spur line;
6. Underground aircraft fuel depot. The cisterns are protected by a layer of ground topped above them. Fuel is brought by railroad tank cars right up to the depot;
7. Garages for airfield vehicles, such as tractors, ZIS trucks, jeeps and ambulances. Each garage is about 35 x 10 meters in size; and
8. Access gravel road about 6 meters wide. It branches off from the Yambol-Roza-Botevo (42-21 N; 26-22 E) road. A small guard house is at the gate to the airfield. The entrance to the airfield is about 150-200 meters from the main road.



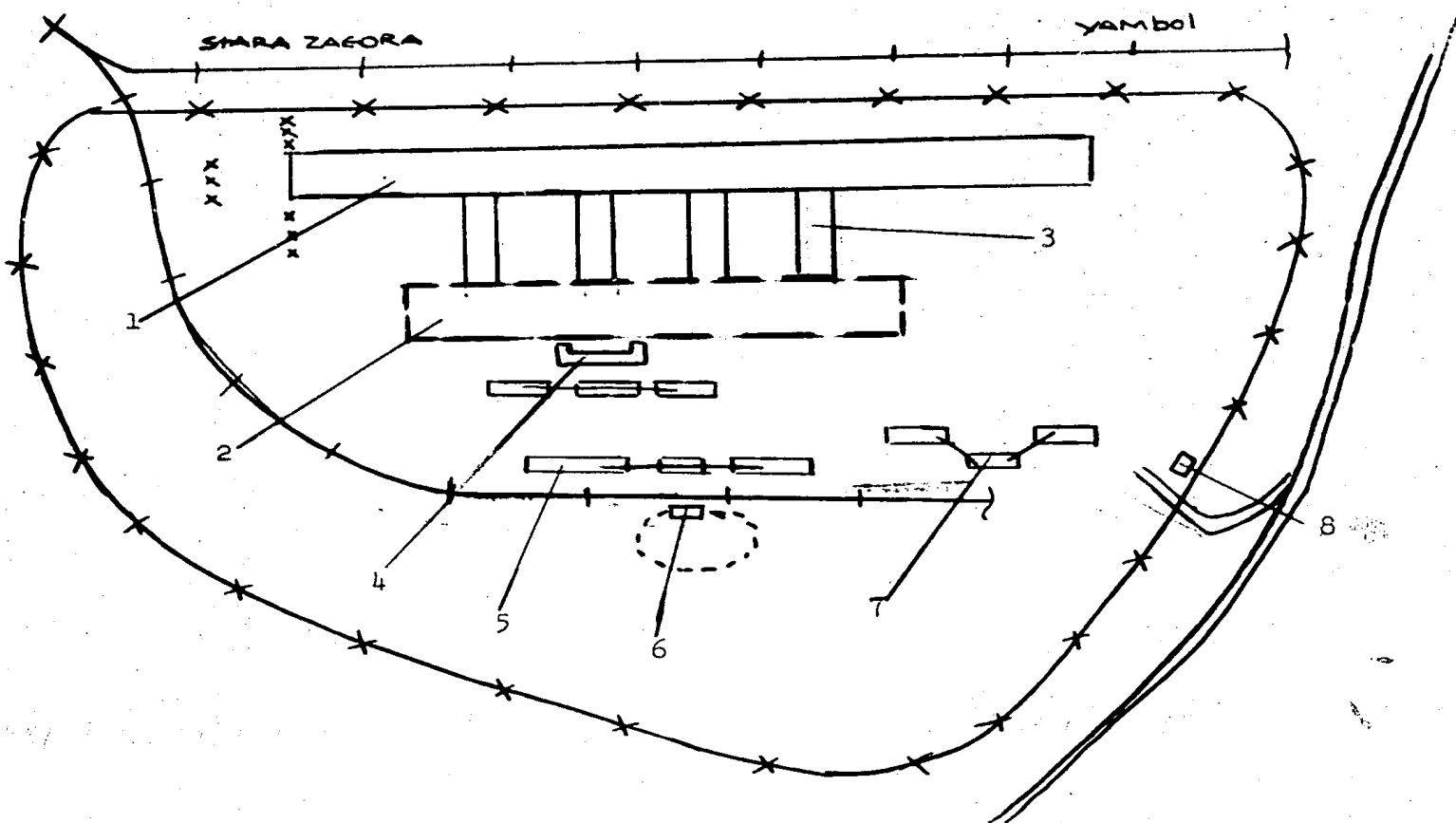
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SHARA ZAGORA

yambol



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